



OCT., 1893.

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Bible School, 9:30 A. M.
Church Services, . . 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M.
Y. P. S. C. E., 6:45 P. M.
Prayer Meeting, (Wednesday,) . . . 7:30 P. M.

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Grace Church Visitor.

*A Monthly Magazine Devoted to Christian Nurture and Fellowship,
Aggressive Church Work and Applied Christianity.*

VOL. V.

OCTOBER, 1893.

NO. 10

Switzerland, the Cradle of the Reformed Church.

The following is an address delivered by Rev. Philip Schaff, D. D., LL. D., at the centennial banquet held during the meeting of the General Synod, at Reading, Pa., May 24th to June 1st, 1893. The address gives a brief history of the birth and growth of the Reformed Church, and will be of interest to the readers of the VISITOR:

Switzerland, like Palestine and Greece, is a country of small circumference but of large significance. Palestine is the mother of Christianity, Greece the mother of civilization, Switzerland the mother of the Reformed Churches. Her lofty mountains, lovely lakes and sublime scenery attract travelers from all countries and nations, and make her a summer rendezvous of scholars, artists and lovers of nature. From her Alps arise mighty rivers which on their course toward the sea water the most fertile portions of Italy, France and Germany. She is the oldest federative Republic. She defended her rights in heroic battles against overwhelming odds, and she has maintained her freedom and independence intact for nearly six hundred years.

In the 16th century Zurich with Zwingli and Bullinger, Basel with Erasmus and Æcolampadius, Geneva with Calvin and

Beza, were centres of power and influence which are felt to-day in Europe and America, and in distant mission fields to the ends of the earth. Calvin was a legislator and disciplinarian, as well as theologian and reformer of the first magnitude. He completed the work of Zwingli, who died prematurely, a martyr of Protestant freedom, on the battle field. He had led the reform movement in western Europe from the little southwestern corner of Switzerland, and made Geneva an impregnable spiritual Gibraltar. He founded by purely intellectual and moral force a church which, in the language of his pupil, John Knox, was "the most perfect school of Christ since the days of the Apostles," and which the distinguished Lutheran Valentine Andreas, fifty years after Calvin's death, held up to the Lutheran Church of Germany as a model for imitation. By his doctrines and example the Reformer of Geneva exerted more influence upon France than any Frenchman, upon Holland than any Dutchman, upon England than any Englishman, upon Scotland than any Scotchman, not even excepting John Knox, who reformed the Church of his native land, after the model of his teacher and friend. Calvinism is muscular Christianity, which would die rather than submit to despotism. It produces a race of earnest, manly and independent characters,

who fear God and nothing else. It bred the Huguenots of France, the freemen of Holland, the Puritans of England, the Covenanters of Scotland, and the Pilgrim Fathers of North America,

The Reformed Church has sent more martyrs to the prison, the scaffold and the stake in France, Holland, the Palatinate and England than the whole Christian Church, during the first three centuries in the Roman Empire. During the single reign of the bloody Duke of Alva, in the Low Countries, from 50,000 to 100,000 suffered death on account of their Protestant faith. The blood of the martyrs was the seed of a religious liberty which we now enjoy.

He who does not know Calvin, says Bancroft, knows nothing of American institutions. Even at this day Calvinism is the strongest force in American theology and Church discipline. But it is undergoing a transformation which must lead to a great advance in the history of the Church.

The reformation of the sixteenth century is by no means the last word which God has spoken to His people. He has other and greater Pentecosts in store. By his providence all nationalities and creeds are brought together in this land of freedom, of which the Reformer could not dream. Here is the material, the possibility and opportunity for a settlement of the controversies of Christendom. Calvinism, after all, is only one type of theology and church life, and only one-half of the gospel. It limits God's love to the elect, and limits the number of the elect to a minority of the human family. It does not comprehend in its fullness the fundamental truth of the Gospel that God is *love* and so loved the *whole world* as to give His only begotten son for the salvation of the world. American theology is moving towards Christ as the centre which sheds light on all articles of faith. Christological theology is more human

than Calvinism and more divine than Arminianism, and more Christian than either. It furnishes a basis for the concord of the discords of creeds. If Christians are ever to be united, they must be united in Christ, their living head and source of their spiritual life.

In this work you have an important share. The German Reformed Church is the oldest of the Reformed Churches, and directly descended from Switzerland and Germany. It differs from the other branches by its connection with the German Reformation and with German theology. Calvin and Melancthon were intimate friends, and their united influence produced the reformation of the Palatinate and the Heidelberg Catechism, which is your only doctrinal standard, and leaves you ample margin for progressive development in connection with the modern evangelical theology of Germany.

This theology is affecting the Protestant churches of America in all the branches of sacred learning, especially in Biblical literature and church history. The German universities are the busy workshops of scientific theology and attract an increasing number of the best American students; while German works and German ideas are freely produced on American soil and wisely adapted to the conditions of a free Church in a free State.

My dear friends and brethren, I shall soon pass from the stage of action. It is the privilege of old men to salute the men of the rising generation and to bid them God's blessing on their journey of life. You have called me a son of Switzerland, from the University of Berlin to a professorship in your Theological Seminary, then located at Mercersburg and now at Lancaster, and I thus determined my public life which has been identified with the history of your church and of American theology during the last fifty years. In this very city I delivered my inaugural

address on the "Principles of Protestantism," and was installed as professor in 1844. When twenty years later I was called to another field of labor, I did not separate from you, but continued with you in spirit and affection, and I feel as much at home with you to-day as ever.

As I look upon the faces of my pupils and friends I gratefully rejoice in what God has done to the German Reformed Church during this last half century. When I came to Mercersburg, in 1844, the seminary, which was the only one at the time, numbered but five students and two professors, who had to devote half of their time to the college. This year the same seminary numbered sixty-four students, with four full professors, and you have three theological schools besides; and these four seminaries graduated in this month over fifty candidates for the ministry. When I was installed the First church was the only one in this city, but now you have as many as thirteen, and all are in a flourishing condition. Then you had but two synods, the mother Synod of the East and the small Synod of Ohio, without organic connections; now you have a General Synod, embracing eight synods, each sub-divided into a number of classes. It is gratifying to me to remember that I proposed, in 1862, at the Classis of Mercersburg, the formation of the General Synod, and the tercentennial celebration, and the tercentennial edition of the Heidelberg Catechism which was published in 1863. It was by my advice, also, at a meeting of the General Synod at Lancaster, in 1878, that you joined the Pan-Presterian Alliance, and thus entered into more interesting communion with the Reformed Churches of Europe and America. This confederation must eventually extend to the other branches of Evangelical Protestantism, and make an important advance toward the reunion of Christendom. I just read the satisfactory correspondence

of the Protestant Episcopal and Presbyterian Committee on church unity, which is laid before the General Assembly at Washington for action on the liberal proposal of the Lambeth Conference of Bishops.

Go on then, in your noble work of building up the kingdom of God in the field which Providence has assigned you, "with malice to none, with charity for all" who love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and your children or children's children will hail the fulfillment of the promise of "one flock and one shepherd."

THE ladies of the church are already making arrangements for their Thanksgiving dinner.

WE hope to see every member of the church present at our Communion Services Sabbath morning, Oct. 20th. Applicants for church membership will be received at these services. We hope there may be a large number who may decide to unite with us at this time. Let us not forget on this occasion to bring a thank-offering unto the Lord. Our offerings should be liberal, and given with a cheerful spirit.

At Hymen's Altar.

Mr. William Saffen and Miss Amelia Lacinger were united in marriage at the home of the groom's parents, 390 East Washington Street, Tuesday evening, Oct. 17th. Only the intimate friends of the groom and bride were present to witness the ceremony. The guests in attendance had a very pleasant time, and were served to an elaborate supper at about 8 o'clock in the evening.

Mr. Saffen is one of our faithful and ever-ready fire department boys, and will reside near the Central Engine house on East Main Street. We hope the future of these young friends will be full of sunshine and happiness.

Grace Church Visitor

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, Editor and Publisher.

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At Rest.

Charles W., son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Buck, 188 Hanna Street, departed this life Wednesday morning, October 11, after an illness of some four months. He was born at Indianapolis November 9, 1869, and was aged, at his death, 23 years, 11 months and 2 days.

Mr. Buck was a young man of a highly commendable character. He was of a quiet and unassuming disposition, and enjoyed the esteem and confidence of all who made his acquaintance. For eight years past he was employed as operator and clerk in the Master Mechanic's office of the Wabash R. R. He was attentive to his business; competent and reliable. During his entire life he was strictly temperate in his habits. Twelve years ago he made a promise to his dying mother that he would abstain rigidly from all intoxicants, and this promise he kept until his death as the most binding and sacred vow of his life. A mother's prayer and entreaty will avail, and a young man can resist temptation if he but will.

One thing our young brother had neglected, namely, to give his heart to Christ. Saturday evening prior to his

death, in company with Elder Martin Connett, we were invited to call and see the young man. We found him very ill, and it was evident that the time of his departure was near at hand. He was fully conscious of his critical condition. Prior to our visit with him, but little had been said to him about his preparation for death. We were rejoiced, however, to find that he was not far from the kingdom. In his own words he assured us that he had been giving the matter of accepting Christ very serious thought. His sorrowing and heart-stricken father, who sat by our side listening to the conversation, suggested to the son the importance of them both accepting Christ, and receiving baptism. After the reading of a portion of scripture and prayer, the father and son were both baptized and received into full membership with the church. The pastor was permitted to visit this young brother a number of times yet before his death, and he expressed himself repeatedly as being very much rejoiced over the step which he had taken, and as being fully prepared for death. When the hour of death came he passed away very calmly. It is a great solace to his friends to know that he was ready, and that he has gone to rest. He leaves to mourn his death his father and step-mother, two brothers, three sisters, and two step-sisters.

The funeral services were held on Thursday afternoon, Oct. 12, from the Grace Reformed Church.

Sleep on, beloved sleep, and take thy rest;
Lay down thy head upon thy Saviour's breast;
We love thee well, but Jesus loves thee best,
Good-night! Good-night! Good-night!

REV. C. F. KRIETE, of Louisville, Ky., was in the city Oct. 16th, to attend the funeral of Mrs. Boerger, 183 E. Washington Street. He reports that his family is well, and that he is meeting with encouraging success in his work.

Bible School.

D. W. SOUDER.....Superintendent.
A. K. ZARTMAN.....Ass't Superintendent.
CHARLES GUMPPER.....Secretary.
MRS. CHARLES GUMPPER.....Treasurer.
EUGENE MATIUS.....Librarian
Bible School Hour: Sabbath Morning 9:30.

Bible School Lessons and Leaders for the Teachers' Meeting.

October 29. Abstinence for the Sake of Others. Mrs. Charles Gumpper.

Nov. 5. The Resurrection. 1 Cor. 15:12-16. Martin Connett.

Nov. 12. The Grace of Liberality. 2 Cor. 8:1-12. Mrs. A. K. Zartman.

Nov. 19. Imitation of Christ. Eph. 4:20-32. D. W. Souder.

Nov. 26. The Christian Home. Col. 3:12:25. A. K. Yartman.

THE pastor is organizing a catechetical class. Those wishing to enter the class should do so at once. The class is heard each Sabbath morning during the Bible school hour.

OUR Teachers' Meetings are becoming more and more interesting. About one hour is devoted to the study of the lesson, and in talking over methods of Bible school work. A few of the teachers do not seem to find time to be present at these meetings. We are patiently and anxiously waiting for the time to arrive when they can also be present. With the increased interest in the Teacher's Meetings, we notice an increased interest in the Bible school. Some scholars tell us that their teachers are becoming more entertaining since the Teacher's Meetings have again been opened.

THE pastor is again at work soliciting for the new church, and is meeting with very encouraging success. It is the intention of the Building Committee to let the contract for the building very shortly, so that the contractor can do preliminary work during the winter.

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 MRS. CHAS. GUMPPER.....Vice-President.
 MRS. JULIA MATHIS.....Secretary.
 MRS. MARTIN CONNETT.....Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

MRS. F. D. PAULUS, MRS. J. RUDISILL.
 MRS. GEO. SOLIDAY.

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

First Thursday of each month, 2:30 P. M.

COMMUNION SERVICES Sabbath morning, Oct. 29th.

THE Women's Missionary Society will give a public service Sabbath evening, Nov. 5th. The exercises will consist of essays, recitations and singing. There should be a large attendance at this service.

TAKE time by the "fore-lock" and see to it that you invite your friends to eat their Thanksgiving dinner at the Grace Church, or better still, sell them some tickets. The ladies of Grace Church have the reputation of furnishing the best Thanksgiving dinners in the city.

MRS. LUKE, from Elkhart, Ind., is visiting her mother, Mrs. Bishop, residing on Erie Street.

MISS LILLIE VORDERMARK has so far recovered from her illness that she is again able to attend services.

MISS IDA MAST, from Bluffton, spent the Sabbath, Oct. 1st, with friends in the city. We were glad to see her again at our services.

WE are glad to have Miss Bessie Gillette back again to the city, and to see her at our services. She has entered the high schools, and will remain for the year.

REV. and MRS. G. H. SOUDER and little daughters, of Bluffton, spent Tuesday, Oct. 17th, at the parsonage. They were on their way home from the meeting of Synod at Bloomville, Ohio.

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 MISS MAST.....Vice-President
 JOHN VORDERMARK.....Secretary
 ETTA SOUDER.....Treasurer
 LILLIE WALTERS.....Cor. Secretary.
 Weekly Prayer Meeting, Sabbath Evening, 6:45 P. M.

Prayer Meeting Topics and Leaders.

Oct. 22. Christian courtesy. Rom. 12: 10-16; Phil. 2: 2-5. Lillie Walters.

Oct. 29. Consecration meeting. Our responsibility for others. 1 Cor. 8: 10-11; Rom. 14: 12-19. Carrie Souder.

Nov. 5. Victory through Christ. 1 Cor. 15: 57; 1 John 5: 3-5. Mary Rudisil.

Nov. 12. Our love tested by our gifts. 2 Cor. 8: 1-9; 2 Cor. 9: 6-8. Alice Connatt.

Nov. 19. Gentleness, a fruit of the spirit. Eph. 4: 30-32; Col. 3: 12-15. Willis Souder.

Nov. 26. Consecration Meeting. Thanksgiving Service. Ps. 68: 19; Ps. 92: 1-5. Eugene Mathis.

MISS ETTA SOUDER and Miss Flora Monn have returned from an extended visit with friends at Shelby, Ohio.

THE Local Union of the Y. P. S. C. E. meets the second Tuesday evening of each month.

THERE will be services during Communion week Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. Every member of the church should be at these meetings.

St. Joe Poultry Yards.

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THE offerings on Children's Day for the new church, amounted to \$30.17. This is quite a handsome addition to the children's fund.

WE have not published any account of the work of the Brick Builders for some time. We hope to give a very favorable report in our next issue. Let these workers wake up, and go to work in great earnest.

THE book on "Heaven," published by Rev. R. C. Zartman, pastor of the Heidelberg Reformed Church, Philadelphia, has been out of the press for several months past. It is a choice book, and should be in many of our families. Those who may wish the book can leave their orders with the pastor.

WE have just received notice that the new building of the Reformed Church at Goshen is nearing completion, and will be ready for dedication Nov. 19th. Elder W. D. Platter writes that the building will be handsome. We have no doubt of this, and we are very glad to hear such encouraging reports from this church.

OWING to the death and funeral of Mr. Buck, the pastor and Elder Connett did not attend the meeting of the Ohio Synod. Under the circumstances we felt it our duty to remain at home. We have had reports of the meeting of Synod, which indicate that the attendance was quite large, and the business was transacted harmoniously. The next annual meeting will be held at West Alexander, Ohio.

Hard Times.

The times are hard, so everybody says. We never knew when the times were not hard. They are always hard to those who want excuses. The times are hard. We do not wonder at it. We spend \$800,000,000 a year for liquors; about \$200,000,000 more for tobacco. The times are very hard!—*The Living Church.*

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